## PERAC PENSION NEWSFLASH

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## **PERAC**

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## **PERAC Minutes Now Posted on Website**

While minutes of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) have always been available to any member of the interested public upon request, they have now become accessible online. PERAC began posting official minutes online after they have been officially approved by the Commission as of the February Commission meeting. This innovation will add to the long list of transparency initiatives launched by PERAC over the past several years.

Interested members of the General Court, the retirement community, advocacy groups and the general public will now have direct easy access to all of the official deliberations of the Commission with the click of a few buttons on PERAC's website.

PERAC's Executive Director Joseph E. Connarton commented on this initiative and the agency's commitment to transparency in all of its operations:

The Commission and I are absolutely committed to the highest degree of transparency possible under our statutory framework and ethical requirements. While some information that we possess such as disability retirement files may not be released to the public under privacy laws, we are committed to providing access to all other aspects of information wherever and whenever doable and feasible. One such aspect is the posting of the Commission Minutes to our website as soon as possible after their official approval.

Our minutes are the official record of the actions of the Commission taken in compliance with our statutory and regulatory goals and objectives. In our minutes, individuals can see both the flow of discussion and debate among Commissioners. Commentary by those in the audience who at times join our discussions, and the final Commission decisions by Vote on major issues impacting the Massachusetts pension system will now be readily accessible.

We encourage all Massachusetts retirement boards that have not yet done so to post their Minutes after final approval by their boards on their websites. This will enhance the transparency of their boards' deliberations and provide important information about the deliberations of the board to employees, retirees, political and administrative leaders and anyone in the general public who chooses to access it.